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Cleveland.com / Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason shares bad injury news about key forward

By Tim Bielik – November 13, 2025

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Blue Jackets are back from their five-game road trip, but their captain will not be on the ice any time soon.

Head coach Dean Evason told reporters, including team reporter Jeff Svoboda, at Thursday's morning skate ahead of their game vs. the Edmonton Oilers that the injury that Boone Jenner suffered on Tuesday in Seattle is not a "short term" injury.

Jenner left in the second period of Tuesday night's 2-1 shootout win vs. the Kraken with an upper-body injury and did not return. He played just 7:21 of the game.

He has three goals and 10 points in 16 games this season.

The injury news comes after Jenner, 32, played in just 26 games last season. He didn't make his season debut until Feb. 22 after suffering a preseason shoulder injury that required surgery.

Jenner had seven goals and 19 points in the 26 games he played for the Blue Jackets last season.

Injuries have been a struggle at times for Jenner, who has not played 70 or more games in a season since the 2019-20 season, which was shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jenner is in the final year of a four-year contract with an average annual value of \$3.75 million.

The Athletic / Mathieu Olivier, Blue Jackets hold on to beat Edmonton days after heartbreaker

By Aaron Portzline – November 13, 2025

As the Columbus Blue Jackets' three-goal lead started slipping away — 5-3, then 5-4 midway through the third period — there couldn't have been a person in Nationwide Arena who wasn't recalling what happened just three days earlier.

On Monday, the Blue Jackets suffered one of those soul-crushing, gut-wrenching losses to the Edmonton Oilers in Alberta, blowing a two-goal third-period and eventually losing 5-4 in overtime.

On Thursday, the Blue Jackets and Oilers met again in Nationwide Arena. As the third period ticked away, you could almost feel the "deja vu" in the air, especially when the Oilers took a timeout with 1:28 left to rest superstars Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl for a final push.

This time, though, the Blue Jackets managed to hold off the Oilers 5-4, even though the puck was in their zone for most of the final two minutes. That breeze emanating from the Arena District in downtown Columbus was the collective exhale of a beyond-capacity crowd of 18,749.

"We all know what has happened recently," Blue Jackets center Charlie Coyle said. "But I think when you start to let those thoughts creep in, you're gonna end up in whatever it is you're thinking about. It's up to us to learn from it. Let's turn it over. Let's get the job done this time."

The hockey gods can be cruel, but they do have a flair for the dramatic.

Mathieu Olivier had the great misfortune of scoring an own goal to help Edmonton force overtime three days ago. He was trying to keep a Jake Walman pass from reaching Draisaitl on the far post for an easy tap-in, but the puck went into the net off his stick.

He had a huge bounce-back Thursday night.

Olivier had two goals and an assist, including a goal at 7:30 of the third period that pushed the Jackets' lead to 5-2. It was worth noting that Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason had Olivier, in a strong show of trust, back out on the ice for the crucial final minutes.

"That bounce in Edmonton (off his stick) ... I could have tried that 10,000 times, and it never would have gone in, especially in the spot that it did," Olivier said. "It's one of those things where ... what are you going to do? I tried to make the right play, and it went in. Tonight, it was fun to get rewarded and help the team get two points."

Coyle had a goal and two assists, while Denton Mateychuk and Adam Fantilli also scored for the Blue Jackets. Fantilli has now scored in three straight games. Goaltender Jet Greaves, making a third start in four days, had 21 of his 25 saves in the final two periods.

The Blue Jackets took a 2-0 lead early in the second period, but Edmonton needed just 1:40 to tie the score midway through the second. Three unanswered goals by the Blue Jackets made it 5-2 at 7:30 of the third.

“They’ve got good players,” Coyle said. “They’ve been around the (Stanley Cup Final) the last however many years, so you know it’s not going to be easy. They’re not going to just lie down and give up.”

Only 27 seconds after Olivier’s goal made it 5-2, the Oilers responded with a Vasily Podkolzin goal to make it 5-3. When Draisaitl scored his second of the night on a one-timer from the right circle, it was 5-4.

Greaves made two terrific saves when Oilers got behind the Blue Jackets’ defense, most notably denying a wide-open look for Edmonton’s Mattias Ekholm with three minutes remaining. Draisaitl had a look off a loose puck in the slot, but whiffed.

“We almost let it go, right?” Evason said. “We talked about when we were there. Obviously, they’re pretty special players, and we tried to do everything we could to take those opportunities away where they score. Fortunately, Draisaitl fanned on that one, or else it maybe could have been a different story. They’re on the ice all the time, and they’re very special players. So yeah, a win’s a win, right? We’ll take it.”

The Blue Jackets played without captain Boone Jenner, which they’ve had to do too often in recent seasons. Jenner left Tuesday’s shootout win in Seattle after playing one shift in the second period.

On Thursday morning, Evason said Jenner’s injury was “not short-term.” Later in the day, in an interview with *The Athletic*, Waddell clarified that Jenner suffered an upper-body injury to a muscle.

“No surgery, or anything like that,” Waddell said. “There’s no real timetable. I talked to him (on Thursday), and he felt a lot better. He’s going to be out for a while, but it’s not months, it’s weeks.”

The Blue Jackets have been impressed with center Luca Del Bel Belluz since he was recalled from AHL Cleveland in the middle of their five-game road trip. He may get a chance to stick in Columbus now that Jenner is sidelined indefinitely.

Del Bel Belluz played in Jenner’s spot on a line with center Sean Monahan and right winger Kent Johnson on Thursday.

The Athletic / Blue Jackets, Charlie Coyle gut out shootout win in Seattle to end rough road trip

By Aaron Portzline - November 12, 2025

There is no way to justify how the Columbus Blue Jackets blew Monday's game against the Edmonton Oilers. However, they could have leaned on a bunch of different excuses if they had a rough outing on Tuesday in Seattle.

Charlie Coyle's goal in the fourth round of a shootout gave Columbus something to smile about at the end of a disappointing road trip, sending the flu-ridden, heavy-legged Jackets to a 2-1 win over the Seattle Kraken before 17,151 at Climate Pledge Arena.

"It's been a long trip out West, going to different time zones pretty much every other game," Coyle told FanDuel Sports Network after the game. "You can't look too far ahead in wanting to go home, though. Everybody wants to get home, right?"

"But we wanted to take two points with us, and we didn't start the trip off the way we wanted. You can say we should have had two points in Edmonton, and, yeah, we should have. But what can we do about it now? The best we can do is grab two points here, and we had to grind it out to get 'em."

Jet Greaves, who became the first Columbus goaltender to make consecutive starts this season, had 22 saves, including a stellar stop on the only shot he faced in overtime. He also stopped three of four Seattle shooters in the shootout.

Adam Fantilli's power-play goal late in the second period was the only goal in regulation for the Blue Jackets, who snapped a four-game (0-3-1) losing streak.

"It was nice to finish off this trip, especially coming off (Monday's game)," Greaves said. "It was a tough (overtime) loss, but it's still nice to get three out of four points to finish off the trip. It's a positive step for our group."

The Blue Jackets let a two-goal lead slip away on Monday against the Oilers in the final minutes of regulation, including a short-handed goal allowed with 58 seconds remaining to force overtime. Then they watched Jack Roslovic, a former Blue Jackets player, score the OT winner for Edmonton.

It was only right to wonder what sort of mental state the Blue Jackets might be in after that loss, and after arriving in Seattle well into Tuesday morning after a lengthy postgame flight.

And that says nothing about their physical state, which wasn't great, either.

There's a flu virus infecting the dressing room, which is why forwards Cole Sillinger and Miles Wood missed Monday's game before returning to the lineup against the Kraken.

It could also be why forward Kent Johnson and goaltender Elvis Merzlikins didn't play on Tuesday. Merzlikins and Greaves had rotated starts all season until Tuesday's game, but Evason would not clarify why he was going with Greaves when asked pregame.

"I don't know if we need a reason for it," coach Dean Evason said. "(Jet's) just going to go tonight."

The Blue Jackets also lost captain Boone Jenner, only one shift into the second period, with what the club termed an upper-body injury. Evason had no update postgame, saying Jenner would be evaluated by team doctors in Columbus after the Blue Jackets return home Wednesday.

There were times on Tuesday when the Blue Jackets didn't seem to have much jump in their game, but they managed it wisely. They were helped, too, by some well-timed Seattle penalties that allowed Columbus to use its power play to at least steady the game's momentum.

"The guys just committed to play hard," Evason said. "I mean, as you guys know, we've been banged up a bit and sick, and the way they played the game tonight against a fresh team ... we did all the right things."

"We talked about it before the game, how we need to stay the course and hopefully get rewarded. We got rewarded here tonight."

The Kraken scored late in the first period to take a 1-0 lead. The Blue Jackets weren't without chances, but Seattle plays a stifling defensive style that can make it challenging to find open ice and clear shooting lanes.

It took a power play late in the first period for the Jackets to break through, and Fantilli both drew the penalty and scored on the ensuing power-play goal.

Fantilli was going hard to the net when Seattle's Ryan Lindgren undercut him to keep him from going wide for a clean shot at goaltender Matt Murray. Lindgren was called for cross-checking after Fantilli slammed hard into the goalpost.

With 1 minute, 38 seconds remaining in the second, Fantilli's shot from the right side of the slot — created off a stellar pass from Kirill Marchenko in the left dot — glanced off Murray's left pad before going into the net.

It was Fantilli's fourth goal of the season and his second in as many nights. The assist by Marchenko extended his career-long points streak to nine games. The Blue Jackets and Kraken headed into the third tied at 1.

"We said, 'It's the third period, we've got to grind this out.' " Coyle said. "It's the end of the road, and we've got a chance to win a hockey game on the road trip. Tie game, third period. Let's grind it out."

"We stuck to it, we believed we could get it done by doing all the little stuff. And if it takes a shootout, it takes a shootout."

It took a shootout — an extra round, too.

Marchenko's goal in the second round gave the Blue Jackets an early chance to win, but Seattle's Eeli Tolvanen kept the Kraken alive in the third round.

After Greaves denied Seattle's Kaapo Kakko to open the fourth round, Coyle came slowly through the left circle and beat Murray with a quick-trigger forehand over his glove and under the crossbar.

It was the 11th shootout winner of Coyle's career, but the Blue Jackets were slow to celebrate from the bench. It took a few seconds before they realized: first, that Coyle's shot had beaten Murray, and, second, that the game was over.

It was a long road trip.

The Athletic / Blue Jackets fritter away late two-goal lead, lose to Oilers in OT for epic collapse

By Aaron Portzline - November 11, 2025

Just when you think the Columbus Blue Jackets have found every possible way to blow a game, they prove their unlimited creativity for heartbreak.

The Blue Jackets were playing exactly to script midway through the third period against the Edmonton Oilers on Monday in Rogers Place, but between Connor McDavid's excellence and the Blue Jackets' gaffes, it all fizzled away.

And there was salt to sprinkle on the wound, too.

Jack Roslovic, Columbus native and former Blue Jacket, took advantage of a bad line change in overtime to score a breakaway goal past goaltender Jet Greaves only 56 seconds into the extra period, sealing the Oilers' 5-4 win.

The fact that it even reached overtime was the first kick in the pants for Columbus.

The Blue Jackets had a 4-3 lead with 2:18 remaining when they were given a two-minute power play after Roslovic went to the box for high-sticking. All they had to do was maintain possession, work the clock and salt it away.

Instead, a wrist shot by Zach Werenski got blocked and the puck cleared the zone, sending the play into the Blue Jackets' defensive zone. The Oilers sent star forwards Leon Draisaitl and McDavid over the boards, and you could feel the panic set in for Columbus.

Edmonton's pressure led to a turnover, and when Oilers defenseman Jake Walman attempted to pass the puck across the goal mouth, the puck glanced off the stick of Blue Jackets winger Mathieu Olivier and floated directly over Greaves and into the net, tying the game at 4.

"Well, kind of a few bad breaks," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason told reporters after the game. "I mean, come on. Like, that puck has no business going in. They're passing the puck across the crease, we go stick on puck and it ends up in our net.

"The way we played, it's a step in the right direction. Are we better? We didn't get a win for sure. But we have to be able to, you know, learn for it. We've had some frustrating stuff here in these last (four) games."

The Blue Jackets have lost a season-high four straight games. When they play on Tuesday in Seattle — yeah, that's a tough turnaround — they're at risk of going winless on their five-game road trip.

The loss on Long Island eight days ago — the Jackets gave up two goals in the final minute to lose 3-2 — was a kick in the pants. The way the Blue Jackets coughed up quick goals in a 4-1 loss to the Calgary

Flames was a back-to-the-drawing-board type of result. On Saturday, the Blue Jackets let an early lead slip and gave up the go-ahead goal late in the third period to lose to the Vancouver Canucks.

But what made Monday's game so frustrating is how the Blue Jackets seemed to overwhelm the Oilers for long stretches, especially in the second period, when they had three shifts of longer than two minutes in the Edmonton end. The Oilers went into second intermission under a shower of boos.

"We played good," Blue Jackets center Adam Fantilli said. "I like our game, other than a couple of lapses. That's such a skilled hockey team over there. We know they can score goals fast. I mean, if that one doesn't bounce off Ollie's stick and go back-bar, we're not having this conversation. So, tough bounces, but also a ton of good for us."

Boone Jenner, Sean Monahan, Adam Fantilli and Ivan Provorov scored for the Blue Jackets, while Greaves had 19 saves. It was a big relief for Jenner, Monahan and Fantilli to score after early-season slumps. Kirill Marchenko, who had a third-period assist, extended his point streak to a career-best eight games.

The Blue Jackets are currently battling a flu bug in the dressing room, which is why Cole Sillinger and Miles Wood were unavailable.

Olivier, who was also fighting the ick, dropped the gloves only 2:03 into the game. Edmonton's Trent Frederic, who had been challenged by coach Kris Knoblauch to bring more intensity, asked Olivier for a fight on his first shift of the game.

Bad idea. Olivier pummeled Frederic with several heavy rights, sending Frederic to the dressing room while Olivier went to the penalty box. Frederic was able to return late in the first period and finish the game.

The Blue Jackets had a 3-1 lead after two periods. You're never safe against any club with McDavid and Draisaitl on the roster, but the Jackets were controlling the game for most of the night, especially in the second period.

McDavid had other ideas, though.

On his first shift of the third, McDavid came into the zone with a head of steam — a truly scary sight for any defenseman — and made a series of moves that twisted Blue Jackets second-year defenseman Denton Mateychuk into a pile on the ice.

McDavid went around Mateychuk and scored past Greaves to make it 3-2. The two-goal margin was restored just 3:21 later when Fantilli scored to make it 4-2 off a glorious pass from Marchenko.

McDavid struck again with 6:21 remaining, turning on the afterburners to skate wide of Marchenko off the rush to make it 4-3.

Still, the Blue Jackets seemed OK, especially once Roslovic went off for high-sticking Charlie Coyle. But they picked a heck of time to allow their first short-handed goal. Olivier looked to the rafters in Rogers Place for answers after his own-goal.

“It gets blocked back down to our end, and now two very special players get on the ice, and they pressured us,” Evason said. “Like I said, the break was not a good one for us, obviously. Crossbar, down. We probably should have handled ourselves a little better in that situation.”

There was still time for one more mistake, though.

On Roslovic’s game-winner, the Blue Jackets made a slow line change. Yegor Chinakhov was late coming onto the ice and couldn’t catch up.

The Blue Jackets flew from Edmonton to Seattle after the game. It must have been a quiet flight.

The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets make amends for OT loss to Edmonton Oilers: Takeaways

By Brian Hedger – November 14, 2025

The NHL's oft-cited "hockey gods" are the sport's invisible purveyors of luck, and they don't always give second chances to those scorched by misfortunes.

When it happens, however, it looks a lot like the Blue Jackets' 5-4 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Nov. 13 at Nationwide Arena.

As a sellout crowd of 18,749 hung on every touch of the puck, the Jackets somehow made their one-goal lead stand up against a fevered push by Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl and the Oilers just four days after collapsing late in a 5-4 overtime loss in Edmonton.

Jack Roslovic, a former Blue Jackets forward from Columbus, decided that game with a breakaway goal in overtime. Four days later, he didn't get a chance to do it again. The Blue Jackets (9-7-1) staved off another late push from McDavid and Draisaitl, who surprisingly whiffed on an opportunity to tie it.

"We almost let it go, right?" Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said, more relieved than happy.

"Fortunately, Draisaitl fanned on that one, or else maybe it would've been a different story, but they're on the ice all the time and are very special players. A win's a win, right? And we'll take it."

Chalk up another one for the hockey gods. Here are more takeaways:

Mathieu Olivier is more than a pair of fists for Columbus Blue Jackets

Prior to his postgame media huddle, Mathieu Olivier strolled around the Jackets' locker room wearing the team's donkey hat as their chosen player of the game. It barely fit his head, but its purpose fit him perfectly.

It was Olivier whom the hockey gods torched in Edmonton after he reached his stick out to break up a pass and deflected the puck into his own net, tying it 4-4 with 58 seconds left and the Blue Jackets on a disastrous power play.

Four days later, against the same team, Olivier led the way with three points on two goals and one assist. It was also the Blue Jackets' annual Hockey Fights Cancer game, which coincided with a bobblehead that leans heavy into Olivier's reputation as an NHL heavyweight fighter.

"I think the concept kind of explains itself, right?" he said, smiling. "The bobblehead doesn't even have a stick, so it's nice to contribute (offensively) to show something else tonight."

Along with three fights, including a decisive win against Trent Frederic in Edmonton, Olivier has eight points on three goals and five assists.

"I thought they did a great job (with the bobblehead)," he said. "The fists are massive. No sticks or gloves though. I'm a hockey player that fights on the ice, not a fighter that plays hockey ... but, obviously, with the Hockey Fights Cancer concept, you can't go around it."

Columbus Blue Jackets' top checking line impresses again

Olivier wasn't the only guy on the Jackets' third line who had a great night. Charlie Coyle also chipped in three points with a goal and two assists, while Cole Sillinger added an assist.

Since being put together, the three have become an effective combination. They dominated the Toronto Maple Leafs in a 6-3 victory Oct. 29 in Columbus and gave the Oilers fits too.

According to Natural Stat Trick, the Blue Jackets were just under 50% in attempted shots (12-13), 50% in shots (7-7) and scored 75% of goals (3-1) with their third forward line on the ice for 10:46 of 5-on-5.

That line also drew a matchup against McDavid's group and took all but one of their 14 faceoffs in either the neutral zone (seven) or defensive zone (six).

"I think you need to have that kind of line on any winning team, kind of a shutdown line that can go up against their top units," Olivier said. "I look at Silly, Coyle and myself, and we're three guys that take pride in doing that job. On some nights, we might not get all the offense we want, but if we stay steady on (defense) and do our job, then its mission accomplished for us."

Boone Jenner injury challenges Columbus Blue Jackets' depth

Boone Jenner is out with an upper-body injury that Evason assessed as "not short-term," at the Jackets' Oct. 13 morning skate.

Specifics weren't released but it'll be multiple games without him, if not multiple weeks. The only certainty is another stretch where the Blue Jackets' depth will be tested. Last season, as Jenner recovered from shoulder surgery, alternate captain Zach Werenski handled the bulk of captain responsibilities and led the way on the ice with a career-best season. He also had help.

"We've got a lot of leaders in that room," Evason said. "Obviously, Boone is a huge part of our group, our identity, all those things. He drives our work ethic, no question, but we have other guys who do that as well."

Jenner's absence creates multiple voids up front, including a role on the second power play. Against the Oilers, rookie Luca Del Bel Belluz skated at left wing on a line with center Sean Monahan and right wing Kent Johnson, while Yegor Chinakhov moved onto the second power play.

Columbus Blue Jackets goalie Jet Greaves gets third straight start

Jet Greaves started for the third straight game and earned the win with 24 saves, including three after Draisaitl cut the Blue Jackets' lead to 5-4 with 8:33 left.

Prior to Greaves' string of starts, the Jackets used an alternating tandem approach between him and Elvis Merzlikins. Asked if a flu-like illness that's making its way around the locker room was the reason ending that approach, Evason paused for a moment before answering, "Nope."

Merzlikins was sharp to start the season, but Evason wasn't pleased with an emotional meltdown in the Blue Jackets' 3-2 loss Nov. 2 at the New York Islanders. Merzlikins also allowed Brock Boeser's winning goal for the Vancouver Canucks late in the third period Nov. 8 at Rogers Arena.

The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets tame Seattle Kraken, illness: Takeaways

By Brian Hedger - November 12, 2025

The Blue Jackets' desperation was evident from the opening faceoff to the final shootout attempt Nov. 11 in Seattle.

After going winless in four straight games, including three they could have won with better luck late in third periods, the Jackets couldn't afford to let another slip away. So they didn't.

Pushing through heavy legs following a 5-4 overtime loss Nov. 10 in Edmonton, the Blue Jackets (8-7-1) ended the road trip with a 2-1 shootout win over the rested Kraken.

They're also battling an illness that forced goalie Jet Greaves to start both games of a back-to-back set, and captain Boone Jenner left with an upper-body injury.

"We played hard," Blue Jackets coach Dean Evason said. "We've been banged up a bit and sick, and the way they played the game against a fresh team was ... we did all the right things. We got rewarded here tonight."

Here are five takeaways:

Columbus Blue Jackets shootout depth comes through again

The Blue Jackets have gained confidence in their ability to win if a game reaches the shootout stage.

Evason didn't have his usual leadoff shooter. Kent Johnson missed the game vs. Seattle either as a healthy scratch or with flu-like illness. Evason never clarified.

In any case, the Jackets still rolled out a strong shootout lineup with center Adam Fantilli, right wing Kirill Marchenko, center Sean Monahan and center Charlie Coyle. All but Monahan scored on their attempts, including Coyle winning the game in the bottom of the fourth round on a wrist shot into the top right corner.

Columbus' goaltending has also been strong in shootouts. Elvis Merzlikins was in net for the Blue Jackets' other game that went that deep, a 5-4 win over the Penguins on Oct. 25.

Columbus Blue Jackets captain Boone Jenner has a new injury

The reason for Jenner's early departure in the second period is unclear, but the Blue Jackets called it an upper-body injury. The captain couldn't continue after taking one shift in the second period.

Losing Jenner creates a big lineup void, but the Jackets are deep enough up front to handle it. Look for Yegor Chinakhov or Zach Aston-Reese to get more ice time if Jenner's out vs. the Oilers on Nov. 13 at Nationwide Arena.

Illness forces Columbus Blue Jackets to stop alternating goalies

Greaves started back-to-back games, a first for the Jackets' goalie tandem this season.

The reason, according to FanDuel Sportsnet TV analyst Jody Shelley, was Merzlikins was one of those affected by the flu-like illness spreading throughout the Jackets' locker room. Merzlikins was available, however, to handle backup duties.

Greaves shined while stopping 22 of 23 shots. His save percentage had dipped to .895 after taking a loss the night before in Edmonton, but that rebounded to .901 to go with a 2.89 goals-against average following the win.

Adam Fantilli heating up for Columbus Blue Jackets

Fantilli capped a 5-on-3 power play late in the second by tying it 1-1 on his fourth goal of the season. Getting set up for a one-timer, the third-year center blasted a slap shot off sprawled goalie Matt Murray that trickled into the net.

Fantilli got off to a tough start centering a forward line that struggled with possession and chemistry, but a switch to play with Marchenko and Dmitri Voronkov ignited his scoring engine.

The third-year center, drafted third overall in 2023, has five points on two goals and three assists in three games since the switch. That's brought his season scoring line up to 4-7-11 in 16 games.

Sillinger, Wood return for Columbus Blue Jackets while Johnson, Aston-Reese sit

Injuries and illness prompted Evason to dress all 23 players for warmup before scratching three at gametime.

Forwards Cole Sillinger and Miles Wood returned to the lineup after each missed a game with flu-like symptoms, but Johnson sat for the first time this season.

Aston-Reese also sat, but that was less notable due to his role as a depth forward. While it's unclear whether Johnson was a healthy scratch or sat due to illness, as previously mentioned, getting a game off might help either way.

Despite setting up a goal for Sean Monahan Nov. 11 in Edmonton and playing on the top power play most of the season, Johnson is off to a slow start offensively. Unlike last season, when he produced at almost a point-per-game level, Johnson has tallied just five points in 15 games on two goals and three assists.

He's also saddled with a -8 plus/minus and was demoted to the fourth line Nov. 8 in Vancouver, which is near his hometown of Port Moody, British Columbia.

The Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets' losing skid reaches 4 in familiar fashion: Takeaways

By Brian Hedger - November 11, 2025

Does this look familiar to anybody?

After fumbling yet another victory they should have claimed Nov. 10 at Edmonton, a 5-4 overtime loss decided by Columbus' own Jack Roslovic, the Blue Jackets (7-7-1) have lost four straight games going into a back-to-back finale against the Seattle Kraken on Nov. 11 at Climate Pledge Arena.

This is exactly how their 2023-24 season slipped away in what turned out to be Johnny Gaudreau's final season. Pascal Vincent was the coach, handling a role for one season that belonged to Mike Babcock before his forced resignation amid a cellphone privacy scandal.

Ring a bell?

It should, because the Blue Jackets under Vincent couldn't finish off games they led. It was one of the biggest reasons fans pleaded for his firing, which president/general manager Don Waddell delivered in his first big managerial decision after joining the organization in late May 2024.

Waddell chased after Todd McLellan, who's now coaching the Detroit Red Wings, and then hired former Minnesota Wild head coach Dean Evason. It was a home run hiring after Evason and the Jackets' player leadership group steered them through the tragedy of Gaudreau's death.

The Blue Jackets defied dire expectations last season, falling two points shy of the playoffs and staying relevant for 81 of 82 games, but that was a different team. Despite Waddell making minimal summer changes, this version of the Blue Jackets is different.

They look less focused, less confident, and through 15 games they have been much less successful finishing games they've led. This team looks similar to the one that got Vincent fired, only this team has long stretches where the Blue Jackets dictate play.

It happened again in Edmonton, where the Blue Jackets lost despite dominating the second period, leading 3-1 to start the third period and still holding a 4-2 edge with six minutes left. Three games earlier, a 2-1 lead wriggled away in a back-to-back finale Nov. 2 against the New York Islanders, who scored two goals in the final 1:07 to win 3-2.

They haven't won since.

Now the Blue Jackets will face another rested team in Seattle while dealing with a flu-like illness outbreak and skating on tired legs after a postgame flight with another time zone change.

That's a long way of saying the Blue Jackets could easily return from this road trip winless in five straight with another game against the Oilers on tap Nov. 13 at Nationwide Arena.

Here are four more takeaways from the Blue Jackets' latest win that got away:

Sour puck luck continues to plague Columbus Blue Jackets

The Islanders' late comeback against the Blue Jackets was sparked by a tying goal with 1:07 left that deflected off Zach Werenski's stick.

Attempting to block a shot with his blade, the Jackets' star defenseman accidentally redirected it over goalie Elvis Merzlikins' shoulder and under the crossbar.

Well, it happened again in Edmonton. This time, forward Mathieu Olivier was the one who skated away shaking his head after he attempted to block a pass attempt by Oilers defenseman Jake Walman and sent it into his own net with 58 seconds for a short-handed goal that tied it 3-3 to force overtime.

The puck traveled on a similar path as Werenski's own goal, deflecting into the air before sailing over goalie Jet Greaves' shoulder and under the crossbar.

"We caught a few really bad breaks," Evason told reporters in Edmonton. "I mean, come on. Like, the puck has no business going in ... on a pass going across the seam, where you go stick-on-puck and it ends up in our net."

Columbus Blue Jackets mishandle line change on OT winner

Asked to analyze what happened on Roslovic's breakaway goal to end it in overtime, Evason pointed to a "late" line change being responsible for not picking up the Oilers forward in the neutral zone.

He didn't cite names, but it was Kirill Marchenko trailing far behind a 2-on-1 rush for Werenski and Charlie Coyle. As he drifted to the bench for a change, Coyle's shot was stopped cold and sent quickly to Roslovic by Walman before Yegor Chinakhov could get onto the ice to defend it.

Little things are crushing the Blue Jackets in big ways right now.

Jack Roslovic exacts revenge on Columbus Blue Jackets

Prior to being dealt at the 2024 trade deadline, Roslovic expressed a desire to remain in his hometown.

He was a pending unrestricted free agent, however, so it made sense for the Blue Jackets to flip him to the New York Rangers as a rental forward in exchange for a 2026 fourth-round pick. Roslovic played in the playoffs for New York, and then signed a one-year deal with the Carolina Hurricanes before waiting until Oct. 8 to sign another one-year deal in Edmonton.

Inconsistent production has plagued his NHL career, but playing with stars Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid could do wonders for his numbers. Roslovic has also become a thorn in the Blue Jackets' side.

Last season, he scored two goals for the Hurricanes in four games against Columbus, and with the Oilers he assisted Walman's first of two goals before scoring in OT.

Columbus Blue Jackets battling illness

Cole Sillinger and Miles Wood didn't play in Edmonton, while Sean Monahan and Olivier played through flu-like symptoms that are spreading throughout the team.

Monahan scored a goal in the second to give the Blue Jackets a 2-1 lead and his new line with Boone Jenner and Kent Johnson was effective. The Jackets' illness situation, however, is something to monitor in Seattle.

The Columbus Dispatch / Roslovic's OT goal for Edmonton Oilers hands Columbus Blue Jackets another stinging loss

By Brian Hedger - November 10, 2025

Another game, another gut punch for the Blue Jackets.

Despite holding two two-goal leads in the third period against the Edmonton Oilers on Nov. 10 at Rogers Place, including 4-2 with six minutes left, the Jackets fell 5-4 in overtime on a breakaway goal by former Blue Jackets forward Jack Roslovic, who's from Columbus.

Roslovic, who didn't sign with the Oilers until Oct. 8, scooped a loose puck at his own blue line in overtime and skated it into a breakaway. He finished it with a shot that beat Blue Jackets goalie Jet Greaves to complete an improbable comeback victory for the Oilers (7-6-4), who'd tied it 4-4 late in regulation on goals by Connor McDavid with 5:21 remaining and defenseman Jake Walman with 58 seconds left and Edmonton short-handed while Roslovic sat in the penalty box.

Walmart's equalizer, his second goal of the game, was scored after the Blue Jackets coughed up the puck in their own end during a late power play that could've sealed a victory. Instead, they're winless in their past four games (0-3-1) and lost three late in regulation: Nov. 2 at the New York Islanders, Nov. 8 at the Vancouver Canucks and now Edmonton.

McDavid also scored two goals for the Oilers, who were reeling after an embarrassing 9-1 loss Oct. 8 on home ice against the Colorado Avalanche. Stuart Skinner picked up the goaltending win for Edmonton, while Greaves took the loss for the Blue Jackets (7-7-1).

Adam Fantilli and Boone Jenner led Columbus with two on a goal and assist each. Seven other Blue Jackets recorded points, including goals by Ivan Provorov and Sean Monahan.

Trailing 3-1 to start the third, McDavid pulled the Oilers within a goal 58 seconds into it on a Spin-O-Rama shot for his first goal of the game. Pulling up sharply in the slot, he spun to his backhand and fired a shot that beat Greaves to the blocker side.

Fantilli countered 3:17 later, putting the Jackets up 4-2 with a one-timer off a backhand feed from Kirill Marchenko to cap a 2-on-1. Provorov, Monahan and Jenner scored the first three goals for Columbus, which used a neutral zone defensive structure that slowed Edmonton's elite transition game for two-plus periods.

McDavid's second goal of the game made it 4-3 with 6:21 remaining, scored with a turbo boost to get around Marchenko before cutting sharply to the net. That set up a chaotic finish that included Roslovic taking a high-sticking penalty with 2:18 left to give Columbus a power play.

Marchenko nearly scored on it, firing just wide of the left post, but the Oilers eventually cleared the puck and pinned the Blue Jackets into their own end.

Zach Werenski's pass around the rim to Denton Mateychuk, his defensive partner, hopped over the intended stick and created a turnover that led to Walman's second goal. Pouncing on the loose puck, Walman carried it toward the net before attempting a pass to Leon Draisaitl set up in the right circle.

Blue Jackets forward Mathieu Olivier tried to break it up, reaching his stick out, but got just enough of the puck to send it into his own net over Greaves' right shoulder. It was Jackets' second "own goal" to lose a lead in their winless streak, following similar luck for Werenski on a late tying goal against the Islanders.

The Jackets' latest bit of terrible luck forced OT and set the stage for Roslovic redeem himself with a breakaway goal against his hometown team, which sent him to the New York Rangers on March 8, 2024 in a deal before the NHL trade deadline.

The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets' Notebook: Jenner's Injury & Johnson's Healthy Scratch

By Mark Scheig – November 13, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets are finally back home after a five-day, cross-county, multiple time-zone road trip that saw them gain only three of a possible 10 points. They get their chance at revenge on Thursday night.

The Edmonton Oilers provide the opposition at Nationwide Arena just three days after they pulled off a stunning, late comeback to defeat the Blue Jackets in overtime 5-4. Former Blue Jacket Jack Roslovic was the hero. He was the hero in Philadelphia on Wednesday as well scoring that overtime winner. Should he do it again Thursday night, he would make NHL history scoring three straight OT winners.

As for the Blue Jackets, the news on captain Boone Jenner was not good.

Jenner Out Longer Term

Jenner was forced to leave the game Tuesday night in Seattle with an upper-body injury. It was originally announced by the team that his return was questionable.

Head coach Dean Evason shed some light on the situation. While he didn't share specific details, he conceded one important piece of information.

"I don't have a sense," Evason said. "He's not (playing) tonight and it's not short term."

Evason went on to say he didn't know exactly when it happened. The team has been through this before with Jenner and extended absences. It's next man up.

"We've got a lot of leaders in that room," Evason said. "Obviously, Boone is a huge part of our group, our identity, all those things. He drives our work ethic no question, but we have other guys that do that as well. We expect everybody to do that and lead as he has and does on a consistent basis."

"Will we miss him? Sure. No question when you have a guy like that come out of your lineup and you need people to step up. We have no doubt that people will."

The lines were of course impacted by Jenner's injury. Here's how they skated on Thursday morning.

- Luca Del Bel Belluz – Sean Monahan – Kent Johnson
- Dmitri Voronkov – Adam Fantilli – Kirill Marchenko
- Cole Sillinger – Charlie Coyle – Mathieu Olivier
- Miles Wood – Isac Lundestrom – Yegor Chinakhov
- Zach Werenski – Ivan Provorov

- Denton Mateychuk – Damon Severson
- Jake Christiansen – Dante Fabbro
- Jet Greaves starts. Elvis Merzlikins backs up

Johnson's Healthy Scratch

It wasn't initially known if Kent Johnson's scratch Tuesday in Seattle was due to illness or if it was a healthy scratch. Evason confirmed the truth on Thursday morning.

"He was not sick," Evason said.

Johnson's start to the 2025-26 season hasn't gone according to plan. He has 2-3-5 in 15 games. He's been up and down the lineup. He's been on the top power-play unit but not getting the numbers we're used to seeing.

Evason wants to see a few things from Johnson moving forward.

"Just some compete. Some bite. Just sticking his nose in there," Evason said of Johnson. "He knows exactly. We've had enough chats and as I think you guys know now, it's that we talk and give the player the opportunity to do the things that we believe a player needs to do in order to help us win hockey games. And if it consistently doesn't happen, then that's the end result."

Evason confirmed Johnson will return to the lineup Thursday against the Oilers.

Especially with Jenner's absence, everyone including Johnson needs to step up. In over 40 minutes of power play time, Johnson has yet to record a point. All five of his points have been at even strength. Johnson is just one of three players with at least 40 minutes of power play time to not record a point. The others are Jamie Drysdale and Sam Rinzel according to Nat Stat Trick.

The Blue Jackets want to play a north and south game as opposed to an east and west game. The message to Johnson is clear. They want him to compete and to play harder while focusing on a more direct game.

Let's see if one game off was just what he needed to find himself.

The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets Survive Late Push to Defeat Oilers

By Mark Scheig – November 13, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets got a second chance to make things right against the Edmonton Oilers. Although it got scary for them in the final minutes, they found a way to exact revenge for Monday night's ending.

Mathieu Olivier scored twice and had three points. His linemate Charlie Coyle added three points of his own to help lift the Blue Jackets to a 5-4 win over the Oilers. With the win, the Blue Jackets won the season series 3-2 in points.

The story of this game was the Blue Jackets playing well and then hanging on for dear life against two of the best in the world.

Game Recap

The Blue Jackets again started the game strong. Then over 15 minutes into the first, Olivier opened the scoring. He deflected Coyle's shot past Oilers' starting goalie Calvin Pickard. That turned out to be the only scoring of the first.

The second period opened with a bang thanks to the same two players but in reverse order. Olivier found Coyle after a bad turnover by Evan Bouchard started the play. At 2-0 up, things seemed like they were in control.

Then some icings became a problem. The Oilers took advantage to gain momentum.

First it was Matt Savoie deflecting a Bouchard shot past Jet Greaves. Then Leon Draisaitl scored his first of the night off a Bouchard pass. Draisaitl got enough of it so that it just eluded Greaves.

The Blue Jackets had a response. It only took 30 seconds for Denton Mateychuk to make it 3-2. Then to end the second, Adam Fantilli continued his recent hot streak since his promotion to make it 4-2 after 40 minutes.

Olivier scored his second 7:30 into the third to make it 5-2 Blue Jackets. From that point on, the Oilers made things interesting.

It took Vasily Podkolzin only 27 seconds to cut it to 5-3. Former Blue Jacket Jack Roslovic set up him continuing his hot start with the Oilers.

Draisaitl added his second of the night under four minutes later to make it 5-4. Then the Oilers threw everything they had at the Blue Jackets.

The Oilers had numerous chances to tie the game. They outshot the Blue Jackets 13-4 in the third period. But unlike Monday night, the Oilers were unable to tie the game. Time ran out on them.

Greaves didn't have his best night stats wise but made a couple huge saves down the stretch to keep it 5-4. It was enough on this night.

The Blue Jackets completed their first set of three games in four nights in this condensed stretch. Their second one begins Saturday night against the New York Rangers.

As for the Oilers, they continue their seven-game road trip with a game in Carolina Saturday night still looking for solutions on defense. They should get Zach Hyman's debut then.

[The Hockey Writers / Blue Jackets News & Rumors: Road Trip Recap, Faceoffs & More](#)

By Mark Scheig – November 12, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets are finally coming home after enduring a five-game road trip that saw them cross multiple time zones. They left some key standings points on the table.

The Blue Jackets went 1-3-1 on their road trip that saw them go to New York, Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton and then Seattle. The game against the Islanders was the second of back-to-back games as was the game against the Kraken.

Normally accruing just three of 10 possible points is cause for concern. But there was some good too. That's where we start this week's edition of Blue Jackets' News & Rumors. What do we make of this completed road trip?

Road Trip Reflections

The Blue Jackets should feel both good and awful about this road trip. They were able to show in spurts what kind of a team they can be. They also showed that they have a long way to go when it comes to handling themselves in big moments in games.

An argument could be made that the Blue Jackets should have had a better record out of this trip than what they accomplished. If they hold late leads against the Islanders and Oilers, they come home with three wins out of five. That makes any road trip a successful one.

The Blue Jackets allowed two goals to the Islanders late in regulation to lose 3-2. Then they allowed a tying goal while on the power play to lose a point against the Oilers. Those three points could come back and haunt them at the end of the season.

Despite the shortcomings, the Blue Jackets played well at different times. Their issue now is to do that consistently.

The second period in Edmonton sticks out as one of the Blue Jackets' most dominating periods of the season. They had the puck a lot and gave the Oilers nothing.

Most of the game in Seattle was good in not allowing much to the Kraken. On the second half of back-to-backs, they outshot the Kraken and had chances to win in regulation. Matt Murray was strong playing for an injured Joey Daccord.

Even in Calgary, down 2-1, the Blue Jackets pushed. But costly mistakes leading to odd-man rushes became their downfall. Those mistakes carried over to Vancouver and cost them that game too despite playing well in stretches.

Adam Fantilli was moved to the top line with Dmitri Voronkov and Kirill Marchenko for the final three games of the trip. Fantilli recorded five points in those three games. He scored the only goal in regulation for the Blue Jackets Tuesday night.

Winning in Seattle was big for a couple of reasons. It gave the Blue Jackets some momentum heading home. They grinded out that game while dealing with illness and injury. It also kept them in the mushy-middle of the Eastern Conference standings by keeping them above hockey .500.

The best way to describe this past road trip was it had good, bad and ugly in it. The good was having some dominant stretches in games. The bad was only getting three of 10 points. The ugly was the way they lost in New York and Edmonton.

The Blue Jackets can definitely build from this road trip. But they cannot let points slip away in the manner in which they did.

Faceoffs, Better?

You read that right. The Blue Jackets have been much better in the faceoff circle at the start of the 2025-26 season.

The Blue Jackets in the last three seasons prior to this one have been 23rd, 27th and 27th in the NHL at faceoff winning percentage. They were never higher than 48.6%.

This season? The Blue Jackets have won 51.7% of their faceoffs. That's 11th in the NHL. Given the long, documented history of center struggles, this is a sign of just how much the center depth has improved.

Blue Jackets PR shared a stat that they are just one of three teams who have five or more players win more than 50% of their faceoffs (minimum 75 draws) this season.

It's a combination of factors in play. Captain Boone Jenner, although he's been on the wing recently, is still good at winning draws. Sean Monahan is consistent there too.

But it's the new guys Charlie Coyle and Isac Lundestrom who have helped level this part of the Blue Jackets' game up. Both are over 53% for the season.

Then there's what Fantilli has done. In now his third NHL season, [Fantilli has jumped 11%](#) from 41.2% to 52.1%. The extra work he's done has paid off.

The Blue Jackets' top-four centers (if you count Lundestrom) are all over 52% at the dot. While faceoffs aren't the end all, they do ensure the Blue Jackets start with possession more often than they don't. For a team trying to take the next step, this is important progress.

Fantilli's continued development coupled with a more veteran presence down the middle have helped solidify an area of the Blue Jackets' game that has eluded them for many seasons. Even if someone is kicked out, they have the ability to win important draws no matter who is in there.

Side Dishes

- The Blue Jackets finished the road trip with an illness going through the room. It cost Cole Sillinger and Miles Wood a game. It may have cost Elvis Merzlikins the start in Seattle according to Jody Shelley. We'll see if it's still going around Thursday and how that might impact the lineup. They hold a full morning skate in advance of their rematch with the Oilers.
- Jenner had to leave the game Tuesday night. No word as of this writing what the severity of his injury is.
- Kent Johnson was scratched Tuesday night. No word to if it was related to the illness or if he was a healthy scratch. The Blue Jackets ran all 23 skaters in warmups Tuesday to see who was able to play.
- Jake Christiansen only played seven minutes against the Kraken. He missed the entire second half of the game. As of this writing, no roster moves have been made.
- Thursday night's game with the Oilers is on ESPN+ exclusively. John Buccigross is on the call.

The Hockey Writers/ Coyle the Shootout Hero as Blue Jackets Beat Kraken 2-1

By Jess Amato – November 12, 2025

On Tuesday, Nov. 11, the Seattle Kraken hosted the Columbus Blue Jackets for their first matchup of the season. Both teams recently tallied a loss, the Kraken losing to the Dallas Stars on Sunday and the Blue Jackets losing to the Edmonton Oilers the day prior on Monday. However, it was the Blue Jackets who finished this game in the win column with a 2-1 shootout win over the Kraken.

Game Recap

As time dwindled in the first period, Jaden Schwartz sent the puck around the boards, where Jamie Oleksiak picked it up. Oleksiak passed it up to Ben Meyers in front of the net. He sent a drop pass for Ryan Winterton as he skated up to the net. From the faceoff circle, Winterton took a shot to score the first goal of the game.

With three minutes left in the second period, Eeli Tolvanen took a seat for tripping Jet Greaves. Less than a minute into the penalty, Ryan Lindgren joined him in the box after cross-checking Adam Fantilli. With a 5-on-3 chance, the Blue Jackets got to work. Zach Werenski took a shot, but Matt Murray made the save. Sean Monahan collected the rebound in front of the net and passed it to Kirill Marchenko in the faceoff dot. He sent it across the ice for Fantilli, whose second shot tied the game.

With a tied score at the end of regulation, it went into overtime to decide the winner. Both teams had some strong chances in the five minutes of 3-on-3, but both Murray and Greaves kept their respective teams in the game. With no one scoring in overtime, a shootout was needed to determine the winner.

Mason Marchment and Adam Fantilli were up first for their respective teams, but both shots were stopped. In Round 2, Jordan Eberle's shot was stopped, but Marchenko scored on Murray. All the pressure was on Eeli Tolvanen, who scored to keep the Kraken's chances alive. Monahan's shot was saved by Murray and the shootout went to Round 4.

Kaapo Kakko's shot was once again saved by Greaves. Charlie Coyle was up next for Columbus, who sent the puck into the top corner of the net to earn the win for the Blue Jackets.

Next Up

Both teams will be in their home arenas for their next game on Thursday, Nov. 13. The Blue Jackets will host the Edmonton Oilers while the Kraken will host the Winnipeg Jets.

The two teams will close out their season series on March 21 when the Kraken travel to Columbus.

The Hockey Writers / 2 Takeaways From the Blue Jackets' 5-4 Collapse to Oilers

By Matthew Buhrmann – November 11, 2025

The Columbus Blue Jackets' road trip nightmare continued Monday night, blowing a two-goal lead to lose 5-4 in overtime against the Edmonton Oilers. It was their fourth straight loss, all on this road trip, dropping their record to 7-7-1.

Former Blue Jacket Jack Roslovic buried the overtime breakaway winner, while Connor McDavid and Jake Walman each scored twice to lead Edmonton's comeback. Stuart Skinner didn't have a great night but picked up the win, stopping 15 of 19 shots.

Ivan Provorov, Sean Monahan, Boone Jenner, and Adam Fantilli scored for Columbus, while Jet Greaves stopped 19 of 24 shots in the loss.

Games Mismanagement Strikes Again

For about 45 to 50 minutes, the Blue Jackets were the better team. They dictated the play and overall outworked the Oilers through two periods, even drawing boos from the home crowd at Rogers Place heading into the second intermission. But then it all fell apart.

In the third period, the Blue Jackets played passively instead of trying to win, and it showed in their sloppy play. The Oilers flipped the momentum and outshot the Blue Jackets 9-6 in the third after being outplayed earlier.

However, the second period was about as dominant as the Blue Jackets have looked all season. They outshot the Oilers 12-5, cycled in the offensive zone, and kept their lines in for long stretches. Jenner's goal came after a line change where the Blue Jackets held the zone, tipping in a Dante Fabbro shot. Earlier, Monahan capitalized on the Oilers' weaker off-the-rush defense, knocking in a rebound off a Kent Johnson shot off Skinner's blocker.

But when the game was there to close out, the Blue Jackets just couldn't do it. A late power play was their chance to ice it, yet instead, they gave up a shorthanded goal off a brutal turnover along the boards in deep. The power play continues to be an issue (13.9% on the season) and completely failed in yet another critical moment, finishing 0-for-2 on the game.

Defensively, the Blue Jackets played well for two periods, blocking 13 shots total and limiting chances, but the Oilers simply sacrificed more. They blocked a whopping 27 shots, with Ty Emberson and Brett Kulak each recording six. Despite having plenty of shot attempts, the Blue Jackets struggled to get pucks through traffic and finished with only 19 shots on goal.

The final play summed up the night: a badly timed change in overtime coincided with a blocked shot led to Roslovic easily breaking free for a clean breakaway, and he buried it against his former team to end it.

Take this for what it's worth, but this isn't the first time the Moneypuck.com "Deserve to Win O'Meter" had the Blue Jackets favored post-game, and they still found a way to lose. In this one, it gave Columbus a 66.3% chance to win in 1,000 game simulations, but the result was all too familiar.

McDavid Takes Over

If there was one thing the Blue Jackets couldn't afford in this game, it was to let McDavid take over, and that's exactly what happened. The first star of the game scored two incredible goals that completely dismantled the Blue Jackets' defense and flipped momentum in the Oilers' favor.

His first came 58 seconds into the third period on an unbelievable spinorama move around Denton Mateychuk before roofing a backhand past Greaves to trim the deficit to one.

His second was just as filthy, as he used his speed to blow past the defense and deke around Greaves to trim the deficit to 4-3.

Mateychuk, who has been solid this season, had arguably his worst game of the season. He was beaten cleanly on McDavid's first goal and later misplayed a pass from Zach Werenski on the power play that went straight to Walman, who somehow scored the shorthanded goal off a lucky deflection off Mathieu Olivier's stick.

Mateychuk finished minus-1, while Werenski ended minus-2.

Greaves, however, was solid most of the game and, in my opinion, wasn't at fault for a few of the goals. He made seven saves in the first period, four of them on grade-A chances, including several against the likes of McDavid and company. He kept the Blue Jackets in it before things unraveled late.

The penalty kill continued its recent solid stretch, going 2-for-2 on the night. But the Blue Jackets again came up short in the key moments. Their tendency to turn over the puck when protecting a lead keeps burning them, and the inability to close out games like this one will cost them down the road.

The Blue Jackets finished with 19 giveaways, far too many against a team with the Oilers' speed and skill. These are the types of games that add up over a season and ones they will look back on come March. If the Blue Jackets want to stay in the playoff race, they cannot afford to let points like this slip away over and over again.

The Blue Jackets are back in action Tuesday night in Seattle against the Kraken in the second game of a back-to-back. They'll be tired and are battling through illness, so it will be a real test to see if they can salvage three points from this road trip. Puck drop is at 10:00 PM EST.